2021
Operational Planning of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation
The aim of the Operational Plan is to emphasize the nature and objectives of H.F.R.I. as well as to update and set the priorities of the Foundation for the current year, thus constituting the roadmap for the Institution’s administration.

This Operational Plan reviews certain points of the 2020 Operational Plan and may be revised in case of significant changes in the internal and external environment of H.F.R.I.

Information presented relates to that applicable at the date of issuance of this Operational Plan.
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The Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation is an institution created out of the need to support research and Greek scientists, while attempting a profound reform in the field of research in our country. For the first time, the research and academic community is actively involved in the administration of an institution funding research and innovation. H.F.R.I. can and should be a key factor in shaping research policy; however, the expansion of beneficiaries and the effective involvement of the community in shaping the conditions for innovative research is an obvious need.

Four years after its establishment, H.F.R.I. strongly contributes to the support of the country’s scientific potential with actions of research projects, scholarships, postdoctoral support, as well as research equipment of great value, with scientific quality and excellence being the sole criterion. All these funding actions may be turned into high value-added products or services.

H.F.R.I.’s operational plan also leads in this direction for the year 2021, which we hope will give a new impetus to the research community in order to make a decisive contribution to the sustainable development of the Greek economy and society.

Mr. Charitidis resigned from the position of Chairman of the General Assembly, due to his election to the Scientific Council.

The election of the new Chairman of the General Assembly is imminent.
It has already been four years since the establishment of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation, an original independent research funding institution, through which the Research and Academic Community participates for the first time in shaping the country's research policy. All this time, both the Administration and Staff of the Institution fully worked for the Foundation’s objectives and values, the support of unrestricted research and the scientific potential of the country. In this context, the Institution to date has funded 1528 projects/scholarships, with scientific quality and excellence being the sole criterion, without thematic, geographical or other restrictions. The smooth continuation of its operation as well as the preservation and strengthening of the reforming spirit of administration it bears in accordance with the principles of transparency, meritocracy and accountability are of great importance for all of us.
This operational plan of the Foundation is the fourth in a row plan which will be the "road map" followed by H.F.R.I. in 2021, which is expected to be another year with special challenges, mainly due to the pandemic of COVID - 19 under the weight of which we all live since the first months of 2020. H.F.R.I. and its personnel quickly adapted to these new challenges and conditions and managed not only not to reduce the productivity and work of the Foundation but, on the contrary, to make it even more productive by publishing another call under the "Science and Society" action. This emblematic action titled "Interventions to address the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic" is the only one so far, which supports the research effort of the country's Academic and Research community for the "next day" both at a social and financial level in order to deal with the adverse effects. Therefore, in 2021, H.F.R.I. will continue with terms of consistency and continuity to support the Academic and Research community of the country, from the level of a PhD candidate, Postdoctoral Researcher, to the level of Professor and Director of Research. At the same time, the Foundation itself is constantly developing in terms of its staff, its equipment, its procedures and its general operation. All of us, the H.F.R.I.’s Administration and Personnel, we continue with a very high sense of responsibility to implement the goals and objectives of the Foundation for the benefit of the excellent Academic and Research community of the country.
The Hellenic Foundation for Research & Innovation (H.F.R.I.) is a new institution through which a profound reform is attempted in the field of Research and Innovation in the country. Established in 2016 (Law 4429/2016 "Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation and Other provisions"), it is a private non-profit legal entity. H.F.R.I. belongs to the wider public sector and is supervised by the Deputy Minister of Development and Investments in charge of research and technology matters through the General Secretariat for Research and Innovation.

H.F.R.I.’s goal is the promotion of Research and Innovation in the country under the national policy for Research and Innovation and in particular the support of unrestricted research, i.e. research activities and technological applications arising from scientific curiosity, without thematic exclusions or geographical restrictions, with scientific quality and excellence being the sole criterion.

H.F.R.I.’s mission is:
- The exploitation of the country’s research potential.
- The support of Greek scientists and the prevention of the outflow of Greek scientists abroad.
- The strengthening and upgrading of research infrastructures.
- The interconnection between Science and Society.

H.F.R.I.’s values are:
- Scientific quality and excellence
- Continuity and Consistency
- Independence
- Transparency and Accountability
H.F.R.I.’s administration scheme is a profound reform in public administration and in particular in the field of Research and Innovation in the country. For the first time, the research and academic community itself participates in the administration of a research funding institution, through its General Assembly, elects the members of the Scientific Council and can be a key factor in shaping the country’s research policy.

06.

ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES

Scientific Council
(9 members)

Advisory Committee
(11 members)

Director

General Assembly
(39 Academic and Research Institutions)
06. ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES

The Higher Educational Institutions (AEI) and the research institutions of the country are represented in the General Assembly based on criteria set by the National Council for Research and Innovation.

The members of the General Assembly are renowned internationally acclaimed scientists who are selected by the above institutions for a three-year term. Following the decision under Ref. No. 146206/2018 (Official Government Gazette, Volume of Special Position Employees and Administration Bodies of the Public Sector and the Broader Public Sector Agencies No. 526) of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs as in force, the second General Assembly of the Foundation was set up, in which 39 institutions are represented.

Responsibilities of the General Assembly:

• Elects the members of the Scientific Council.

• Approves partnerships and collaborations with other bodies of the public and private sector in Greece or abroad for the achievement of H.F.R.I.’s objectives.

• Submits proposals to the Scientific Council on issues related to the research activities of H.F.R.I.

• Approves the annual report (financial report and report of actions).

• Within 2020, the General Assembly held 5 meetings (3 ordinary and 3 extraordinary) and made 10 decisions.

• The General Assembly is in the process of electing the 9 new members of the Scientific Council in accordance with article 8 of Law 4429/2016. The process is expected to be completed before the end of the term of office of the members of this Scientific Council on 11.04.2021. Moreover, in the middle of this year it will exercise its control responsibility over the approval of the annual report of the Institution.
06.

ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES

Scientific Council

The Scientific Council (SC) of the Foundation consists of **nine (9) full members**, internationally acclaimed scientists coming from the following fields:

Agricultural Sciences, Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Information Science, Social Sciences, Humanities, Environment and Energy, Medicine and Health Sciences, Engineering and Technology Sciences and Innovative Entrepreneurship.

The members of the SC are elected by the General Assembly, following an international call for expression of interest and are renowned scientists who have been distinguished for their international work and experience in the respective scientific field. The term of office of the members of the SC is four years.

Responsibilities

The Scientific Council manages the Foundation and has the following responsibilities:

A. Ensures the achievement of the Foundation’s objectives, based on the national policy for research and innovation.

B. Accepts donations and all kinds of funding.

C. Sets up the judging and objection committees for the evaluation of the proposals and the selection of the final beneficiaries and supervises their proper operation, guided by the principles of meritocracy and transparency. The members of the Scientific Council may not participate in these committees.

D. Approves the budget of the Foundation, upon the recommendation of the Director.

E. Recommends to the General Assembly any collaborations and partnerships of the Foundation with public and private sector bodies, domestic and foreign.

F. Recommends to the Minister the amendment of the Internal Rules of Procedure.

G. Approves the operation of services and offices of the Foundation in other cities of the Greek Territory, upon the recommendation of the Director.

Within 2020, the SC held 24 meetings (11 ordinary and 13 extraordinary) and made 195 decisions.

Furthermore, within the framework of its responsibilities, it is expected to decide on the conditions of the actions to be announced within 2021, to set up the new evaluation committees and to supervise the evaluation procedures. In addition, the Scientific Council, aiming at continuing the activities and achieving the Institution’s objectives, will continue to seek H.F.R.I.’s refunding.
The Advisory Committee is of a consultative nature and is independent from the other bodies of the Foundation. Its purpose is to evaluate the action of the Foundation and to formulate opinions and recommendations in order to optimize its operation. It examines issues of particular importance or issues of special interest in terms of the Foundation’s operation and the funding of research and innovation.

The Advisory Committee consists of eleven (11) members, who are distinguished internationally acclaimed scientists or come from business and/or production agencies, domestic or foreign.

The members of the Advisory Committee are elected as follows: The National Council for Research and Innovation (NCRI), three (3) months before the end of the term of the members of the Advisory Committee, prepares and submits to the Minister and the Scientific Council a list of twenty-two (22) suggested members, six (6) of which are at the same time members of NCRI. From this list the Minister selects six (6) members, while five (5) members are selected by the Scientific Council. Up to three (3) out of the eleven (11) members of the Advisory Committee may also be members of NCRI. The term of office of the members of the Advisory Committee is four years.

Upon the decision of the Scientific Council or the Advisory Committee, renowned Greek or foreign scientists may be invited to the Committee’s meetings.
H.F.R.I.’s Advisory Committee consists of the following members:

1. Athena Athanasiou, Professor, Department of Social Anthropology, Panteion University
2. Ioannis Vontas, Professor, Agricultural University of Athens
3. Vassilios Gounaris, Department of History and Archeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
4. Othon Iliopoulos, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School, USA
5. Dimitrios Lagoudas, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research, Deputy Director of Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) and Distinguished Professor at Texas A&M University
6. Michail Spourdalakis, Professor, Dean of the School of Economics and Political Science, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens
7. Athanasios Stubos, Director of the Institute of Nuclear and Radiological Sciences and Technology, Energy and Safety, NCSR “Demokritos”
8. Nektarios Tavernarakis, Chairman of the Board and Director of Central Directorate, FORTH, Director of Research, Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, FORTH, Professor, Medical School, University of Crete
9. Dimitrios Charalambidis, Professor, Department of Physics, University of Crete and Collaborating Faculty Member, IESL, FORTH
10. Nikolaos Hadjichristidis, Distinguished Professor, Physical Sciences and Engineering Division, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia and Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry, University of Athens
11. Theodore Papazoglou Head of Policy Unit at the European Research Council (ERC) †

Within the current year, the Advisory Committee will propose the list from which the Minister will appoint the members of the Thematic Advisory Committees. In addition, the new members of the Advisory Committee will be selected, in accordance with the provisions of the current institutional framework.

* The Advisory Committee was appointed by decision No. 75065/2018 of the Alternate Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs (Official Government Gazette, Volume of Special Position Employees and Administration Bodies of the Public Sector and the Broader Public Sector Agencies No. 300).
06.

ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES

Director & Deputy Director

Director

The Director of H.F.R.I. implements the Foundation’s strategy in accordance with the decisions of the SC. He is an internationally acclaimed scientist with expertise, administrative experience and remarkable research activity. The qualifications of the Director are specified in the Internal Rules of Procedure. The Director has the following responsibilities:

- Heads the services of the Foundation, is responsible for its smooth operation and is the authorizing officer of all its expenses.
- Prepares and publishes the calls for actions funded by the Foundation, according to the annual action planning and the decisions of the SC.
- Takes care of the realization of the Foundation’s budget targets.
- May request the convening of the General Assembly and the Scientific Council in an extraordinary meeting, always through the Chairman of the respective collegiate body, and participates in their meetings without the right to vote.
- Prepares the annual report to be submitted to the SC and then, for approval, to the General Assembly.
- Seeks funding sources for the Foundation.
- Represents the Foundation in court and out of court.

Within 2020 the Director of H.F.R.I. made 1,195 decisions. During the current year, within the scope of his responsibilities, he is expected to make as many decisions regarding the operation and actions of the Institution, in accordance with this operational plan and the decisions of the Council.

*The Director, Mr. Nektarios Nasikas, was elected and appointed by decision No. 301/2017 (Official Government Gazette, Volume of Special Position Employees and Administration Bodies of the Public Sector and the Broader Public Sector Agencies No. 436) of the Scientific Council after a call for expressions of interest for a four-year term, renewable only once.*
Deputy Director for Administrative Affairs

The Deputy Director in charge of Administrative Affairs is a scientist holding a postgraduate or doctorate degree with documented and extensive administrative competence and many years of experience in the management and organization of research and research policy as well as deep knowledge of the country’s research ecosystem. She takes care of H.F.R.I.’s administration affairs as well as of any other matter assigned to her by decision of the Director or the SC. In this context, she recommends to the Director upon the issues of her competence, manages and implements the decisions taken by the Director, the SC and the General Assembly.

The Deputy Director for Administrative Affairs, Ms. Christina Foka, was appointed by decision under No. 815/2018 (Official Government Gazette, Volume of Special Position Employees and Administration Bodies of the Public Sector and the Broader Public Sector Agencies No. 173) of the Scientific Council, while she replaces the Director should he be absent or prevented from his duties.

Law 4782/2021 abolishes the positions of H.F.R.I.’s deputy directors. The term of office of the current Deputy Directors of the Foundation shall end in accordance with the provisions in force before the publication of this plan.
07.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The existing human resources of H.F.R.I. amount to 22 employees with a fixed-term private law contract and 3 employees on a posting. Their recruitment was performed in accordance with the provisions of article 10 of Law 4429/2016, after an open process and evaluation.

H.F.R.I.’s personnel is highly qualified having a vision and faith in the values and goals of the Foundation.

The objective is the gradual completion of the Foundation’s staffing within the next 2 years and the continuous training and upgrading of its human resources.

To date, none of the thirty five (35) positions of regular staff provided in the internal rules of H.F.R.I. has been filled.
08.

TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

H.F.R.I.’s Information System

H.F.R.I.’s Information System consists of three distinct subsystems that are interconnected ensuring as effectively as possible the control and transparency of all processes, thus achieving a significant reduction in the energy footprint of the Foundation, as it is accompanied by a reduction in the need to use and store physical documents.
In order to achieve the operational objectives of H.F.R.I. for speed, reliability and transparency in the Submission of Proposals, in the Evaluation and in the Management of Actions, a specialized system has been developed and is constantly evolving, perfectly adapted to the needs of H.F.R.I.’s users, but also to the requirements of the Foundation. It is a user friendly system that to date has the following capabilities:

- User Login/Sign up
- Submission of Applications (Scholarships) and Research Proposals
- Evaluation of Applications (Scholarships) and Research Proposals
- Submission and management of objections
- Management of scholarships/projects funded
- Register of Certified Evaluators
- Detailed instructions and useful documents

Within the next two years, the expansion of H.F.R.I.’s Web Portal is expected. In particular, the development of the following capabilities/subsystems is planned:

- Interconnection of H.F.R.I.’s web portal with the document circulation system
- Ability to issue standard documents
- Interconnection with Taxisnet
- Development of an environment for disabled users
- Development of an environment for Impact/Dissemination of funded projects
- Expansion of proposal evaluation and project management subsystem
- Ability to check for cases of double funding of projects, plagiarism (interface with platforms of other institutions)
Within the first quarter of 2021, an **Electronic Protocol, Electronic Document Management and Digital Signatures System** is expected to operate. The system, whose software has already been centrally installed, in computers and networks of H.F.R.I., will cover the requirements of the Foundation holistically and universally in relation to all acts and actions concerning the receipt, management, creation, circulation, approval/signing and archiving of documents, as defined in the Public Agency Communication Code (KEDY) and in the broader institutional and regulatory framework, for the management and circulation of all types of documents by public bodies in Greece and the EU.

This system will have full interoperability and/or compatibility not only with all the information systems of the Foundation but also with critical Information Systems and ICT infrastructures of the Greek State, such as:
- The e-government portal ERMIS,
- The web portal DIAVGEIA,
- The National System of Electronic Public Contracts (ESIDIS)/Central Electronic Register of Public Contracts (KIMDIS),

as well as supporting the exchange of documents with third-party systems through the eDelivery European infrastructure.
In order to ensure the smooth operation of the Financial Department, a system has been installed and operates at the Foundation that, among other things, allows the following:

- Application of General Accounting, Customers, Suppliers computerization and issuance of consolidated statements of Customers and Suppliers.
- Project Management Monitoring application in correlation and connection with General Accounting.
- Application of Computer Function for the Issuance of Payment Orders in correlation and connection with General Accounting.
- Application for the Monitoring of Cost Statements and automatic posting on Diavgeia portal in correlation and connection with General Accounting and Printing of a Commitment Register.
- Application of Computer Issuance for Income Statements in correlation and connection with General Accounting.
- Application of Fixed Asset Register Monitoring in correlation and connection with General Accounting.
- Procurement Monitoring and Management by virtue of Law 4412/2016.
- Application of Payments through the Issuance of Computer Cheques or payment through banking transactions in correlation and connection with General Accounting.
- Application of Payroll-Back pay, Contract Register and Personnel.
- Monitoring application of Annual Budget, Primary Requests, Commitments, automatic postings on Diavgeia portal, issuance of a Commitment Register report with full and detailed description.
The resources of the Foundation may be:

- All types of funding/grants from the State Budget (regular and Public Investment Program).
- Funding and all types of aids or grants from European Union bodies and institutions, and other European or international organizations.
- Funding in line with the Agreement dated 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank; said funding is managed by the Foundation as a beneficiary, on behalf of the Hellenic Republic.
- Donations, aids, inheritances, legacies, grants, sponsorships and all types of contributions from natural persons or legal entities of the public or private sector, in Greece or abroad.
09. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Foundation, in compliance with provisions in force, the Agreement dated 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank and the H.F.R.I.’s Internal Rules of Procedure, manages its resources through a special treasury management account in the Bank of Greece. The funding that was granted based on the Agreement dated 15.07.2016 between the Hellenic Republic and the European Investment Bank is a loan income of the State Budget and an equal amount thereof has been registered in a Foundation-specific budget code of the Ministry of Development and Investments, amounting to €180,000,000. The total amount of €180,000,000 has already been disbursed by the European Investment Bank with the last €56,000,000 to be provided to H.F.R.I. within 2021.

Additionally, H.F.R.I. has received funding amounting to €120,000,000 from the co-funded component of the Public Investment Program.

A donation from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to the amount of €5,000,000 was approved within 2019, to be used as a bridge financing for researchers who have submitted research proposals to Calls by the European Research Council (ERC), have been evaluated and rated A or B during the second phase, but have not been funded. Total budget for the action amounts to €10,000,000.
**FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

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### Budget allocation per Action/Call

The budget is allocated to Actions/Calls pursuant to the loan agreement, the ministerial decisions, the decisions of the Scientific Council and the Director, in accordance with the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action/Call</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>5th</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FACULTY MEMBERS/RESEARCHERS</td>
<td>45.000.000</td>
<td>24.500.000</td>
<td>24.580.000</td>
<td>30.500.000</td>
<td></td>
<td>124.580.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOLARSHIPS OF PHD CANDIDATES</td>
<td>13.500.000</td>
<td>10.000.000</td>
<td>8.000.000</td>
<td>5.000.000</td>
<td>3.000.000</td>
<td>39.500.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS</td>
<td>34.000.000</td>
<td>16.580.000</td>
<td>8.000.000</td>
<td>9.250.000</td>
<td></td>
<td>67.830.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQUIPMENT</td>
<td>20.000.000</td>
<td>7.560.000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27.560.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE AND SOCIETY/EMBLEMATIC ACTIONS</td>
<td>1.030.000</td>
<td>10.000.000</td>
<td>3.000.000</td>
<td>1.500.000</td>
<td>1.000.000</td>
<td>11.530.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10TH WAVE OF SOCIAL SURVEY</td>
<td>220.000** (Returns on capitals)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>220.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The emerging landscape of digital work in humanities in the context of the European infrastructures DARIAH and CLARIN</td>
<td>365.000** (Returns on capitals)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Co-funding with SNF (Donation of €5,000,000)
** Returns on capitals

TOTAL 276.585.000
Budget allocation per Action/Call

The budget is allocated to Actions/Calls pursuant to the loan agreement, the ministerial decisions, the decisions of the Scientific Council and the Director, as illustrated in the chart below.
The main beneficiaries of the Foundation’s funding are: Universities in Greece, the research and technological institutions of article 13a of Law 4310/2014 (Official Government Gazette A’ 258) and the Research University Institutes. Co-beneficiaries of funding may be companies, educational and research institutions and other institutions, public or private, in Greece. Any potential beneficiaries (main and co-beneficiaries) of funding will be specified in the respective calls. In particular, for scholarships related to the preparation of doctoral theses and the conduct of postdoctoral studies, the beneficiaries are natural persons.
11.

H.F.R.I.’s FUNDING SCHEMES

H.F.R.I. accomplishes its strategic goals through different funding tools.

- Scholarships for PhD Candidates
- Research projects for Postdoctoral Researchers
- Research projects for Faculty Members and Researchers
- Procurement of research equipment
- Science and Society Actions
- Emblematic Actions
11.

H.F.R.I.’s FUNDING SCHEMES

A. Scholarships for PhD Candidates

The aim of the Action is to support PhD Candidates in order to conduct a high level of research in Greece. This action of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) aims at funding PhD Candidates for the preparation of their doctoral thesis in Higher Educational Institutions (AEI) and Higher Military Educational Institutions (ASEI) in Greece. The duration of funding (in the form of a scholarship) is from 12 to 36 months.

Since 2016, 3 Calls have been published for Scholarships for PhD Candidates, under which a total of 3441 Applications were submitted, while 951 PhD candidates receive scholarships in the context of the first 2 Calls (total budget €22,099,290).

The evaluation of the Applications submitted under the 3rd Call is expected to be completed by the end of June 2021. The 4th Call with a budget amounting to €5,000,000 and the 5th Call for the Action with a budget amounting to €3,000,000 are expected to be published in the 9th/2021 and 9th/2022, respectively.

### Action’s schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>BUDGET (€)</th>
<th>PUBLICATION OF CALL</th>
<th>FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>13.500.000</td>
<td>30.11.2016*</td>
<td>7th/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>10.000.000</td>
<td>20.07.2018*</td>
<td>11th/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>8.000.000</td>
<td>27.11.2020*</td>
<td>10th/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>5.000.000</td>
<td>9th/2021</td>
<td>10th/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>3.000.000</td>
<td>9th/2022</td>
<td>10th/2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Submission end date

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2021 Operational Planning of H.F.R.I.
The Action is designed to support Postdoctoral Researchers in order to guide the implementation of a Research Project as Principal Investigators (PI) and to create their own independent Research Team. The ultimate goal of the action is the formation of new perspectives in the scientific and professional course of both the PR/PI and the members of the Research Team (RT) of the project, and the creation of appropriate conditions for utilizing the existing scientific potential of the country and attracting young scientists working abroad.

Since 2017, 3 Calls for research projects for Postdoctoral researchers have been published. Under the first two Calls, a total of 2833 Proposals were submitted and 297 projects were funded (total budget €49,837,576).

Under the 3rd Call, 887 proposals were submitted, whose evaluation is expected to be completed by December 2021. The 4th Call for the Action with a budget amounting to €9,250,000 is expected to be published in the 12th/2022.
The aim of the action is to support the implementation of selected research projects of high scientific quality in the context of the effort to support the country’s research activity. This action follows and complements the actions of H.F.R.I. for the support of PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers within the framework of practical support for research conducted in the country. Furthermore, this action is part of the utilization of the country’s scientific potential, aiming at keeping young scientists and attracting those working abroad. Under the first two Calls, a total of 4884 Proposals were submitted and 261 projects were funded (total budget €44,907,104). The evaluation of the Applications submitted under the 2nd Call is expected to be completed by the end of June 2021. The 3rd Call with a budget amounting to €24,580,000 and the 4th Call with a budget amounting to €30,500,000 are expected to be published in the 2nd/2022 and 2nd/2024, respectively.

### C. Research projects for Faculty Members and Researchers

**Action’s schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>BUDGET (€)</th>
<th>PUBLICATION OF CALL</th>
<th>FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>45.000.000</td>
<td>16.01.2018*</td>
<td>12th/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>24.500.000</td>
<td>1/06/2020 *</td>
<td>7th/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>24.580.000</td>
<td>2nd/2022</td>
<td>6th/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>30.500.000</td>
<td>2nd/2024</td>
<td>6th/2025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Submission end date

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The table shows the schedule and the budget for each call period, along with the number of funded projects and the success rate.

**Success rate**

- **FUDING:** 2855
- **SUBMISSION:** 261

Success rate: 9.14%
The aim of the action is the procurement of high-value research equipment and strategic importance, in the context of the effort to support the country’s research activity. The action is implemented in Higher Educational Institutions (AEI), Research University Institutes (RUI) and Research Centers-Institutes of the country called Host Institutions (HI) by strengthening or expanding their existing research structures.

Under the 1st Call, 17 projects were funded with a total budget amounting to €19,927,054. The 2nd Call for the Action with a budget amounting to €7,560,000 is expected to be published in the 5th/2023.
The aim of the emblematic Action "Science and Society" is the vulgarization of science and in particular the dissemination of scientific knowledge to the wider society as well as the development of a wider research culture. The projects of the Action are implemented in Universities, Research University Institutes (RUI) and Research Centers-Institutes of the Country, which are called Host Institutions (HI). Suggested projects must meet high scientific quality criteria and be characterized by originality, innovation and significant social impact.

Under a total of five Calls for the Action Science and Society, 885 proposals were submitted and 15 projects are already funded under the first 3 Calls (total budget €2,193,317.00), while the evaluation of the other two Calls is expected to be completed within April 2021. The 6th Call for the Action with a budget amounting to €1,000,000 is expected to be published in the 10th/2023.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>CALL/TITLE</th>
<th>BUDGET (€)</th>
<th>PUBLICATION OF CALL</th>
<th>FUNDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>“200 years from the Greek Revolution”</td>
<td>1,030,000</td>
<td>16.01.2018**</td>
<td>12th/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd 5th</td>
<td>“Always strive for excellence – Theodore Papazoglou”</td>
<td>10,000,000*</td>
<td>2nd: 01/10/2019**</td>
<td>9th/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5th: 01.03.2021</td>
<td>7th/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>“Research, innovation and dissemination hubs”</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>13.01.2020**</td>
<td>5th/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>“Interventions to address the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic”</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>15.06.2020**</td>
<td>4th/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>10th/2023</td>
<td>2nd/2025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Proposals will be submitted twice a year until the budget is exhausted

** Submission end date
The 1st Call for the Action titled "200 Years from the Greek Revolution" aimed at funding the public promotion of research projects or actions of high scientific and/or artistic quality, which highlight various aspects of the Greek Revolution of 1821 with innovative approaches, such as the impact it had on the formation and evolution of the economy, society, culture and politics in the Greek state and/or the European dimension of the event. Ten (10) projects are funded under this Call.

The Action “Always strive for excellence – Theodore Papazoglou” was named in honor of Th. Papazoglou, who in addition to being an excellent member of the Greek and European Research Community was also a member of H.F.R.I.’s Advisory Committee. The Action aims at supporting the research effort of Greek Researchers, who were positively evaluated by ERC but did not receive funding due to budget exhaustion, in order to be able to continue their research work and be able to resubmit the their research proposal (or a newer version thereof) in a subsequent ERC call; it is funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Under the 1st Call, five (5) projects are funded. Proposals for the Action will be submitted twice a year until the budget is exhausted.
The 3rd Call titled "Research, Innovation and Dissemination Hubs", whose evaluation is expected to be completed in early 2021, includes the following three Thematic Areas: Thematic Area 1: Research & Innovation Hubs in Education: The aim of Thematic Area 1 is the development of a mentality of transforming research knowledge into innovation and its dissemination to students of Primary and Secondary education but also young scientists (e.g. university students). Thematic Area 2: Research Dissemination Hubs: The aim of Thematic Area 2 is to disseminate and promote the research work that has been produced or is in progress by the country's Research Institutions to the wider society or to young scientists and/or to remote geographical areas through innovative, original approaches. Thematic Area 3: Circular & Social Economy Hubs: The aim of Thematic Area 3 is the dissemination/promotion of research projects/actions related to either the circular or the social economy to the wider society to specific social groups (e.g. to students of Primary and Secondary Education, to young scientists, to socially vulnerable groups) and/or to remote geographical areas through innovative, original approaches.

582 proposals were submitted under the Call. The funding is expected to start in the 5th/2021.
The 4th Call for the Action titled "Interventions to address the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic" is an Emblematic action. The aim of the Call is to contribute to addressing the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to developing economically viable technologies that will help address these problems. In particular, the Action concerns the development and/or applications of technology/know-how related to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and/or its effects (prevention, diagnosis, treatment, addressing of social and economic effects, etc.) in 4 research areas (Economy, Society, Production and Medical Technology). The projects to be funded should have immediate results that can be exploited in a short period of time and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and/or its effects. The evaluation process of the 216 submitted proposals is in progress and the funding is expected to start in the 4th/2021.

In the context of the Emblematic Actions, a call titled "The emerging landscape of digital work in Humanities in the context of the European infrastructures DARIAH and CLARIN" is expected within the 4th/2021. The aim of this Action is the targeted support of the comprehension of digital working methods and their penetration in Humanities in Greece and Europe and in particular the funding of research projects on the analysis of current trends and possibilities of digital work in Humanities in Greece in coordination with corresponding events in the European infrastructures DARIAH and CLARIN, utilizing services of the National Infrastructure for Digital Humanities and Arts and for Language Research and Innovation and its synergies with the European infrastructures DARIAH and CLARIN.
12. EVALUATION

The evaluation of the submitted proposals and applications is carried out in accordance with article 5 of Law 4429/2016 as in force, the provisions of the Foundation’s Internal Rules of Procedure and the decisions of the Scientific Council. The submission and evaluation of proposals is performed through the Web portal of the Foundation and with procedures that ensure the rapid and free from unnecessary administrative burden completion of the process.
The evaluation is performed by an evaluation committee, consisting of five (5) to twenty (20) members. The evaluation committee may be assisted in its work by one or more independent experts depending on the type and number of scientific fields covered by an action or program. These experts and the members of the evaluation committees come from the H.F.R.I.’s Register of Certified Evaluators and until its creation by the Register of Certified Evaluators of article 27 of Law 4310/2014 (A’ 258) and have the qualifications related to the scope of the project to be evaluated. If for a certain evaluation there are not any specific scientists or the existing ones do not cover the needs of the specific evaluation, it is allowed, by decision of the Scientific Council, to appoint special scientists who are foreign fiscal residents not included in the Register of Certified Evaluators as members.

In the context of the evaluations carried out during the period 2018 - 2020, a total of 1042 evaluators participated as members of Thematic Committees and/or experts as illustrated in the chart below.
The experts and the committee are appointed by the Scientific Council, following a recommendation from the Thematic Advisory Committee (THAC). Each member of the Foundation’s SC is assisted in its work by a Thematic Advisory Committee consisting of five (5) renowned scientists specialized in the thematic area it supervises. The Chairman of the respective thematic Sectorial Scientific Council (SSC) participates automatically in THAC, with the Vice-Chairman of SSC being his/her deputy. For the establishment of THAC, the Foundation’s Advisory Committee suggests to the Minister twice the number of members at least, who come from NCRI or the corresponding thematic SSC. The Minister issues the act of establishment of THAC. THAC’s coordinator becomes automatically the (1) member of the SC, on whose initiative THACs meet at least (2) twice a year. The term of office of the members of THAC is annual with the possibility of renewal. During their term of office, THAC’s members are subject to incompatibility. In order to evaluate the proposals of each call, THACs must be convened within fifteen (15) days from the proposal submission end date so that they suggest to the Scientific Council within an exclusive period of thirty (30) days from their convening twice the number of experts at least required for the establishment of the evaluation committee. If a THAC does not submit for any reason the list of candidate experts, their selection is made by the SC.

The acts concerning the selection, appointment, travel and remuneration of experts and the members of the committees are published and posted on Diavgeia portal immediately after the evaluations are performed and completed.
The evaluation’s results are immediately communicated to the candidates, with personalized report and documentation of the evaluation decision. The candidate may file an objection for reasons of legality of the decision, within a period of ten (10) days, starting from the communication of the evaluation decision, before an objection committee set up for this purpose by decision of the Scientific Council.

The objection committee consists of three (3) members from the H.F.R.I.’s Register of Certified Evaluators and until its creation from the Register of Certified Evaluators of article 27 of Law 4310/2014 (A’ 258). The members of the objection committee are different from those of the evaluation committee. The objection committee decides within an exclusive period of ten (10) days from the expiration of the deadline for filing objections. The decision of the committee is communicated to the Director of the Foundation and to the interested party.

For the examination of the objections on the temporary evaluation results under H.F.R.I.’s Calls a total of 162 experts have been appointed.

After the evaluation of the proposals, the funding decision is issued by the Director of the Foundation. This decision is an enforceable administrative act and is subject to an application for annulment before the Administrative Court of Appeal. The whole process is governed by strict rules of conflict of interest and confidentiality that bind all parties involved.
For the evaluation of proposals, the examination of objections and the certification of the Foundation’s funded actions, the H.F.R.I.’s Register of Certified Evaluators – Experts is being created.

The determination of formal and essential qualifications and the certification of Register members of paragraph 6 is carried out by a five-member committee, formed under the Minister’s decision, consisting of three (3) Advisory Committee members and two (2) Scientific Council members of the Foundation.

For the preparation of the Register of Certified Evaluators – Experts, an open call of interest was published (24391/13.04.2020) for the submission of applications for participation through H.F.R.I.’s Web Portal with 31.12.2020 being the end date. Following this call, 612 submissions were made and 470 members were certified and entered in the Register; the certification of the remaining submissions is expected.

Moreover, on 26.03.2021 an open call of interest for the submission of applications for participation in the Register was republished through H.F.R.I.’s Web Portal.
In the context of this compliance, the following activities have been conducted:

- Approval and adoption of a policy of information security and of protection of personal data, following the Decision of the H.F.R.I.’s Director under Ref. No. 23598/17.03.2020.
- Posting on H.F.R.I.’s Web portal of the Personal Data Protection Policy regarding the personal data of its users.
- Creation of a banner for cookies settings on H.F.R.I.’s website.
- Posting of Cookies Policy to fully inform the visitors of the website.
- Creation and posting on H.F.R.I.’s website of a standard document for the exercise of rights of the personal data subjects.
- Disclosure of data of the H.F.R.I.’s Data Protection Officer on the Foundation’s website.
- Creation and keeping of a record of requests for the exercise of rights of the personal data subjects.
- Development of a process to preserve data accuracy.
- Development of a process to ensure that data processed by the Foundation are indeed the minimum for processing purposes.
- Information to subjects and management of consents in the context of H.F.R.I.’s events.
- Creation and keeping of a record of consents of data subjects.
- Creation and keeping of a record of Personal Data Processing Activities.
- Creation and keeping of H.F.R.I.’s visitor log.
- Creation and keeping of a record of personal data breach incidents.

The Data Protection Officer shall ensure the implementation of the Data Protection Policy and the rules arising by specifying the appropriate audit procedures. She also ensures that appropriate technical and organizational measures are implemented and that all necessary actions are performed to ensure full compliance of the Foundation with applicable European and national legislation on data protection and information security.
15.

2016 - 2020

H.F.R.I. in numbers

€276,220,000 committed for Actions

14,708 Submissions of Applications/Proposals

1528 Funded projects/Scholarships

€136,576,932 for funded projects/scholarships

42 Institutions as beneficiaries
15.

2016-2020

Funding of projects/scholarships

- 10th wave
- Always Strive for Excellence
- 200 years from the Greek Revolution
- 1st Scientific Equipment
- 1st Faculty members & Researchers
- 2nd postdoctoral Researchers
- 1st postdoctoral Researchers

Male & Female

- Female
- Male

2021 Operational Planning of H.F.R.I.
15.

2016-2020

Funding of projects/scholarships

Project fundings per scientific area

Scholarships per scientific area
16. SWOT ANALYSIS

**Strengths**
- Independent Evaluation based only on quality and excellence without thematic, geographical or other restrictions
- Independent administration scheme with the participation of the academic and scientific community in the selection of the SC and in the development of research policy
- Highly qualifies human resources
- Vision and values

**Weaknesses**
- Tight financial rules framework
- Institutional ambiguities
- Institution’s operation without regular staff

**Opportunities**
- Creation of a Register of Certified Evaluators/Experts
- Collaborations with third parties
- Definition, standardization and digitization of procedures
- H.F.R.I.’s Web Portal – Interoperable Information System
- Staffing and continuous training of staff
- Establishment of a new culture and assessment conditions

**Threats**
- Inability to obtain new resources to fund the Institution’s objectives, thus posing the threat of interruption of the call for actions process with continuity and consistency (long-standing request of the academic community)
- Risking the Institution’s independence
17. OPENNESS - COLLABORATIONS

Strategic goals

The strategic goals for the Foundation’s openness remain and concern:

A) The attraction of financial resources to support H.F.R.I.’s objectives.

B) The development of high-profile collaborations with similar institutions abroad, as well as the establishment of communication channels and links with the Greek academic/research and business community abroad.
OPENNESS - COLLABORATIONS

Participation in EU-funded projects:

IntelComp: A Competitive Intelligence Cloud/HPC Platform for AI-based STI Policy Making (GA 101004870)


Project’s objective: Creation of a platform (Cloud Platform) providing to public bodies and policy makers across Europe artificial intelligence services for the development and implementation of policies based on data and information in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation policy.

Project’s duration: 01.01.2021 – 31.12.2023

https://intelcomp.eu/
PROMOTION-DISSEMINATION-VISIBILITY OF H.F.R.I.’s WORK

A. Actions

- Event titled “200 Years from the Greek Revolution: Conversing with History Today” (National Historical Museum, 06.02.2020)
- H.F.R.I.’s Info day regarding the management of research projects of the “1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value Research Equipment” (Hellenic Pasteur Institute, 05.03.2020)
- Despite the very difficult conditions due to the pandemic, H.F.R.I. was in constant remote communication with its beneficiaries in order to keep them informed and updated all the time.
- Online workshop titled “The Next Step: Creation & Operation of Start-up Businesses” (27.01.2021). The aim of the Workshop was the interactive communication between the beneficiaries of funding/new scientists, the representatives of entrepreneurship and innovation institutions, as well as the production and development agencies of the country, in order to develop and create innovative start-up businesses. This “online panel” also included representatives of the State, distinguished representatives of the scientific and academic community, entrepreneurship and innovation who expressed their scientific opinion and exchanged ideas and views on the ecosystem of innovative start-ups in Greece. More than 600 people participated in the Workshop.
- On the occasion of the end of the Scientific Council’s term of office, H.F.R.I. held on Monday 29 March 2021 at 16.00-19.00 an online workshop titled “H.F.R.I, - An independent pillar of support for unrestricted research: four years of operation”. The aim of the Workshop was to highlight the independent nature and the objectives of H.F.R.I. as well as the work carried out during its four years of operation. In addition to the nine members of the Scientific Council who represent the scientific areas in which they are engaged, distinguished scientists participated also in this “online panel” in order to present their views and vision for Science along with representatives of the State.
18.

PROMOTION-DISSEMINATION-VISIBILITY OF H.F.R.I.’s WORK

B. Social Media:

H.F.R.I., benefiting from the power and influence of social media with the main aim of disseminating its mission and actions, created the Foundation’s official accounts on the following social media:

- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/hellenic-foundation-for-research-and-innovation/?viewAsMember=true
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/ELIDEK_HFRI
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ELIDEKgr/
- YOUTUBE: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRXA10pOnBmx7bZOop45O0Q/featured?disable_polymer=1
PROMOTION-DISSEMINATION-VISIBILITY OF H.F.R.I.’s WORK

C. Creation of an online community of beneficiaries of H.F.R.I.’s actions

The Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation took the initiative to create an online community in the form of a “closed group”, which now belongs to the official account of the Foundation at LinkedIn in order to facilitate the internal communication of the beneficiaries of H.F.R.I.’s actions under the title “H.F.R.I. Research Community”.

The aim of this closed group is to develop a dialogue on research matters and activities and to exchange research views, activities, ideas, presentations, publications, good practices and research news or information.
H.F.R.I. is a new institution established in order to support and strengthen unrestricted research in Greece without any thematic or geographical restrictions by funding actions distinguished for their scientific quality and excellence. For the first time, a profound reform in the field of Research and Innovation has been attempted; the country’s scientific and academic community actively participates in the development of the country’s research policy, evaluates and is evaluated, lays the foundations for the interconnection of research with innovation, is present at the international and European research process, thus contributing dynamically to the formation of society and economy of knowledge. The Foundation’s vision is to develop into/be a permanent and independent pillar/institution of targeted and stable support for unrestricted research in the country in order to enhance the research career and mobility of Greek scientists, to prevent the outflow of the country’s scientific potential abroad and to build a strong and internationally recognized research identity of the country.
ANNEX: Members of the General Assembly

Chairman: Constantinos Charitidis, National Technical University of Athens
Vice-Chairman: Alexandros Afouxenidis, National Centre for Social Research

Full Members
Andronikos Theodore, Ionian University
Vouros Georgios, University of Piraeus
Georgopoulos Efstratios, University of the Peloponnese
Dedousis Georgios, Harokopio University
Dimitriou Elias, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
Dougalis Vassilios, Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH)
Zerefs Christos, Academy of Athens
Iliadis Lazaros, Democritus University of Thrace
Ioannidis Konstantinos, Athens School of Fine Arts
Kalogeropoulou Theodora, National Hellenic Research Foundation
Klinakis Apostolos, Biomedical Research Foundation of Academy of Athens
Kondili Emilia, University of West Attica
Kouretas Georgios, Athens University of Economics and Business
Kouladouros Elias, Agricultural University of Athens
Lappas Aggelos, Centre for Research & Technology Hellas
Matsa Revekka, Hellenic Pasteur Institute
Belechaki Anna, National Observatory of Athens
Bourikas Kyriakos, Hellenic Open University
Pavlidis Georgios, “Athena” Research Centre
Petrakis Evrpidis, Technical University of Crete
Samaras Zisss, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Skordas Georgios, University of Western Macedonia
Saravanos Dimitrios, University of Patras
Tatarakis Michael, Hellenic Mediterranean University
Trikalitis Panteleimon, University of Crete
Tsezou Aspasia, University of Thessaly
Tsivoglou Georgios, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Tsoulfidis Eleftherios, University of Macedonia
Charalamopoulos Dias-Dionisios, University of the Aegean
Chatzis Pantelis, Biomedical Sciences Research Center "Alexander Fleming"
Floudas Georgios, University of Ioannina
Psycharis Vassilios, National Centre For Scientific Research “Demokritos”
Psycharis Ioannis, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences

Alternate Members
Angelidis Pantelis, University of Western Macedonia
Alexiou Chatzaki Aikaterini, Democritus University of Thrace
Vakola Maria, Athens University of Economics and Business
Gizeli Electra, University of Crete
Zourovs Nikolaos, University of the Aegean
Kavoulakis George, Hellenic Mediterranean University
Karageorgis Aristomenis P, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
Komninou Filomila, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Kormas Konstantinos, University of Thessaly
Kotroni Vasiliki, National Observatory of Athens
Kyriakopoulos Konstantinos, National Technical University of Athens
Mamalaki Avgi Hellenic Pasteur Institute
Maravellaki Pagona, Technical University of Crete
Mitropoulos Sarandis, Ionian University
Christoforos Nikolaou, Biomedical Sciences Research Center "Alexander Fleming"

Christos A. Ouzounis, Centre for Research & Technology Hellas
Panagiotidis Theodore, University of Macedonia
Papadopoulos G. Apostolos, Harokopio University
Papadoudis George, National Centre for Social Research
Papaefstathiou Giannis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Papastefanatos George, Athena Research Center
Rovolis Antonios, Panteion University of Social and Political Science
Roukanas Spiridon, University of Piraeus
Skaltsas Giannis, Athens School of Fine Arts
Skandamis Panagiotis, Agricultural University of AthensStavrakas Ilias, University of West Attica
Tagmatarchis Nikos, National Hellenic Research Foundation
Tiverios Michalis, Academy of Athens
Triantafyllou Vassilis, University of Peloponnesse
Xanthou Georgina, Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens

Hadjiossif Christos, Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH)
Chroni Angeliki, National Centre for Scientific Research “Demokritos”
Frillingos Stathis, University of Ioannina
ANNEX: New members of the Scientific Council

SA.1. Constantine Galiotis, University of Patras
SA.2. Emmanouil Kakaras, National Technical University of Athens
SA.3. Charalampos Savvakis, University of Crete
SA.4. George-John Nychas, Agricultural University of Athens
SA.5. Evangelos Markatos, University of Crete
SA.6. Xenia Chryssochoou, Panteion University
SA.7. Antonios Regkakos, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
SA.8. Stylianos Neophytides Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH)
SA.9. Constantinos Charitidis, National Technical University of Athens